Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) For use in a communications system, a system for extending the range of a wireless headset used by a user to conduct voice conversations, said system comprising:

a phone operable to communicate wirelessly at least pursuant to a first wireless communications protocol that has a distance limit;

a wireless headset ~~associated~~ mated with said phone and also operable to communicate pursuant to the first communications protocol, said wireless headset ~~capable of~~ for communicating directly with said phone utilizing a wireless communications protocol having a distance limit when positioned within the distance limit;

a communications ~~system~~ network backbone; and

a plurality of access points each coupled to said communications ~~system~~ network backbone at one of a plurality of dispersed locations and in communication connectivity therebetween by way of said communications network backbone, an access point of said plurality emulating said phone with said wireless headset and for communicating therewith pursuant to the first wireless communications protocol when said wireless headset is beyond said phone by more than the distance limit and an access point of said plurality emulating said wireless headset with said phone and for communicating therewith pursuant to the first communications protocol when said wireless headset is beyond said phone by more than the distance limit~~, wherein said access points are capable of selectively establishing a communications path within said communications system between an access point emulating said phone and an access point emulating said headset to provide communications between said phone and said headset when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance limit~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein each access point of said plurality is capable of selectively:

emulating said phone utilizing said first wireless communications protocol,

emulating said headset utilizing said first wireless communications protocol,

communicating with said phone within said ~~finite~~ distance limit from said phone utilizing said first wireless communications protocol,

communicating with said headset within said ~~finite~~ distance limit from said headset utilizing said first wireless communication protocol, and

interfacing with said communications system.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein said phone and said headset communicate utilizing Bluetooth and said access points are each capable of emulating said phone and said headset utilizing Bluetooth.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance limit, but said phone is separated from a first access point by a distance not greater than said distance limit and said headset is separated from a second access point by a distance not greater than said distance limit.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein said first access point emulates said headset in communicating with said phone and said second access point emulates said phone in communicating with said headset.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5 wherein said ~~communications path~~ communication connectivity within said communications ~~system~~ network backbone couples said first and second access points.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6 wherein communications from said phone received at said first access point are forwarded via said ~~communications path~~ communication connectivity to said second access point for transmission to said headset and communications from said headset received at said second access point are forwarded via said ~~communications path~~ communication connectivity to said first access point for transmission to said phone.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein said distance limit is a Bluetooth wireless headset distance limit.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said phone said headset communicate directly when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than the distance limit and communications via said ~~communications path~~ communication connectivity between two access points when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance limit.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said access points are capable of detecting when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance limit or whether said phone and said headset are communicating directly.

11. (Currently Amended) For use in a communications system, a method for extending the range of a wireless headset used by a user to conduct voice conversations, said method comprising the operations of:

associating a wireless headset with a phone, said wireless headset and a said phone operable to communicate wirelessly at least pursuant to a first wireless communication protocol that has a distance limit and said wireless handset capable of communicating directly with said phone utilizing ~~a~~ the first wireless communications protocol having ~~a~~ the distance limit when the wireless headset is positioned within range, defined by the distance limit of said distance limit; and

coupling each of a plurality of access points to a communications ~~system~~ network backbone at one of a plurality of dispersed locations and in communication connectivity therebetween by way of said communications network backbone, an access point of said plurality emulating said phone with said wireless headset and for communicating therewith utilizing the first wireless communications protocol when said wireless headset is beyond said phone by more than the distance limit, and an access point of said plurality emulating said wireless headset with said phone and for communicating therewith utilizing the first wireless communications protocol when said wireless headset is beyond said phone by more than the distance limit~~, wherein said access points are capable of selectively establishing a communications path within said communications system between an access point emulating said phone and an access point emulating said headset to provide communications between said phone and said headset when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance limit~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising the operations of enabling each access point to selectively:

emulate said phone utilizing said first wireless communications protocol,

emulate said headset utilizing said first wireless communications protocol,

communicate with said phone within said ~~finite~~ distance limit from said phone utilizing said first wireless communications protocol,

communicate with said headset within said ~~finite~~ distance limit from said headset utilizing said first wireless communications protocol, and

interface with said communications ~~system~~ network backbone.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising the operations of:

utilizing Bluetooth for communications between said phone and said headset; and

enabling each said access point to emulate said phone and said headset utilizing Bluetooth.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising the operation of:

separating said phone and said headset by a distance greater than said distance limit without separating said phone from a first access point or said headset from a second access point by a distance greater than said distance limit.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of 14 further comprising the operations of:

emulating said headset in communicating with said phone utilizing said first access point; and

emulating said phone in communicating with said headset utilizing said second access point.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising the operation of:

coupling said first and second access points by said ~~communications path~~ communication connectivity within said communications ~~system~~ network backbone.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising the operation of:

forwarding communications from said phone received at said first access point via said ~~communications path~~ communication connectivity to said second access point for transmission to said headset; and

forwarding communications from said headset received at said second access point via said ~~communications path~~ communication connectivity to said first access point for transmission to said phone.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said operation of separating said phone and said headset by a distance greater than said distance limit without

separating said phone from a first access point or said headset from a second access point by a distance greater than said distance limit further comprises:

separating said phone and said headset by a distance greater than a Bluetooth wireless headset distance limit.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

enabling said phone and said headset to communicate directly when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance not greater than the distance limit and to communicate via said communications path between two access points when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance limit.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

enabling said access points to detect when said phone and said headset are separated by a distance greater than said distance limit or whatever said phone and said headset are communicating directly.